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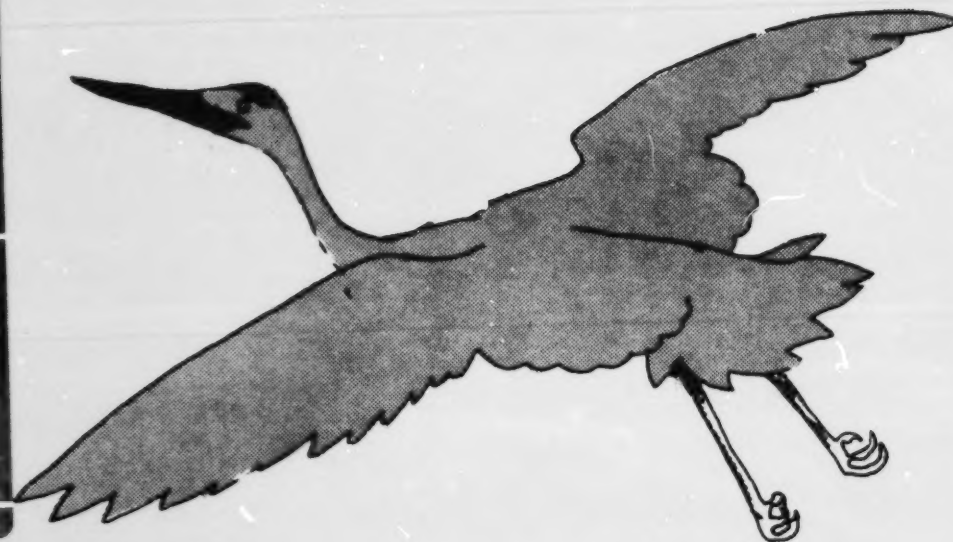
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ABSTRACT

These traditional stories in the Tanaina Athapaskan language (Talkeetna dialect) are intended for competent speakers of the Alaskan language who have knowledge of the writing system. An interlinear English translation is included as well as a free English translation. (NCR)

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NDAŁ TSUKDU

GHELDZAY TSUKDU

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NDAL TSUKDU
GHELDZAY TSUKDU

Nuqulnegen:
Katherine Nicolie

CRANE STORY

and

MOON STORY

Told by

Katherine Nicolie

Edited by

Jim Kari

Tanaina Athabaskan August 1976
Talkeetna dialect

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Ndał Tsukdu

Liq'a	hdalts'i.	Tsida	ghun
Fish	they were	Old lady	that one
	staying for.		
qughe'ut	en'its'st'a	eydu.	
near to them	in poverty	she was staying.	
Ukuya	eł	eydu.	Qesqa
Her granddaughter	with	she stayed.	Rich man's
utsa'a	"Ken	ts'tudałni,"	ni.
daughter	"To the flat	let's go,"	she said.
Luq'u	kents'	taydatl'	k'qinuyay
Everyone	to the flat	they went	pick berries
ghuda.	Ndał	k't'eh	hdiqun.
for.	Crane	nest	they found.
			Ugguya
			His baby
baydu.	Qesqa	utsa'a	ghun
was sitting in it.	Rich man's	daughter	that one
yets'	niduhudalyu	ts'u	heyighetneq.
for it	she begged	and	they took it.
Ts'u	nuytaltan.	Qil	nu'itdatl'.
And	she brought it back.	With it	they went back.
Dzaniq'e	qesqa	utsa'a	ndałgguya
All day	rich man's	daughter	baby crane

yeł nik'unutsadises.
she threw it up in the air.

Qesqa
Rich man's

uts'enaqa
children

yeł nik'utsahdises.
they threw it up.

Nułtsel
It got wet

ts'u q'ugheli
and almost

tsitayni.
it was about to die.

Tsida ghun
Old lady that one

"Kuya, ggeh
"Granddaughter, rabbit

deyes qudaytlaq'i ghin inłkit. Ndał
skin worn out one that one take it. Crane

ghin nik'unuhyilt'eq' hnuq'u itaghilyel
that they throw it up when you'll grab it

ts'u ggeh deyes eł nik'utsatidaghises
and rabbit skin you'll throw it up

ghini. Ndał itaghilyel ts'u gu beł
that one. Crane you'll grab it and here with it

dunhutidaghilt'eh."
you'll bring it back."

Utsikda ghini ndał utsit'uq'
Her grandmother that one crane head feathers

ts'anigits'. Yekests'a ghin qendugh
she tore out. Its feathers those around the fire

yenahghi'un. Yuts'eh qesqa uts'enaqa
she scattered. Outside rich man's children

qeyehunuhtelyas. Tsida duhnidzaq'.
they look for it. Old lady they ran inside to.

"Tsughelt'eq'," qelni. Yaqets'
"I ate it up," she told them. Thus

da hyiluq. Ndalgguya qel'i ghilt'eq'.
it seemed. Baby crane she hid it.

Daha hts'ahyeniltan tsida
Where they got it from old lady's

kuya yeh yeł nusildaltuk'.
granddaughter there with it she ran back.

Utsikda yeghenik'dinlu. "Uk'uts' nilts'ey
Her grandmother warned her. "Downwind

ts'en yeh qel'i ghilggus ts'u yit ghu
side there you hide and there

ghidu de'."
you stay."

O'ugheli helts' yeh ndal
Just at dark there cranes

hts'ananatdatl' Nunudatl' hnu'u
they flew back out. They returned when

qugguya ghini yit eydu.
their baby that one there was sitting.

Nultlaq'i. "Ts'adats' nunindzu dida?"
It was soaking "How did you return?"
wet.
heyelni.
they said.

"Tsida kuya gu nusiltan sit'i,"
"Old lady's granddaughter here she brought me,"

yelni. "Ggeh deyes el nik'utsadiłnen
it said. "Rabbit skin she threw it up

ts'u seyelyel."
and she grabbed me."

"Nt'ay yinhdi?"
"Where is that one?"

"Ghedu qel'i eydu."
"There she is hiding."

"Una," qeyelni ts'u yit heniniyu.
"Come," it told them and there it went to her.

Dunyeyes qeyets'anyeltun. Yada luq'u
Skin bag they took out. whatever all

gheli k'kidza ts'eda gheli yan dghak
really feathers blankets clothes

ghuhdi qeyelaq'a hghilu.
those they gave to her.

"Nunindzu hnu'u ntsikda ghun
"You return when your grandmother that one

quhghełani el dghinił. Qighilkegh
let me dig a you'll tell her. Large
hole

htghilah de'. Quhdghises kegh gheli ts'u
you'll make it. You'll dig it big really and

ntsikda qitghilgheł. Qesqa
your grandmother you'll put her in it. Rich man's

uts'enaqa ni'inhtuł'il. Hq'a nehqetes
children will bother you. Hole they'll throw
dirt in

ts'u	t'enhtuɬ'il.	K'eldun	ghunahdi
and	they'll do this	Some of them	
	to you,		
tage	nqitduniɬ	ts'u	nnuhtnutuh.
sorry	they'll be for	and	they'll help you.
	you		
Yina	ghuhdi	tiye qil	hnu'u
They	those ones	really bad	when
qiqubetghilgheɬ.		Qey'un	htuɬ'il.
you'll let them in		Pay	they will.
(the hole).			
Yada	hghaɬnik.	K'enq'ena	yan
Whatever	they have.	Dentalium	only
itaghiɬket	ts'u	ququesqa	tghilɬah.
you will take	and	their boss	you'll become.

"Daɬts'ey hnu'u
 "The wind starts to blow when

na'inhghil'anna	ghuna	tsik'a
the ones who bothered you	those	a stick

qubenuɬtu	dghiltsil.	Qubehts'anak'tghilkes.
for them	you will make.	You'll drive them away.

Nts'uk'a qiqubeytghildeɬ.	Luq'u	tsidliqubetuɬ'is.
You won't let them in.	All of	will freeze to death.
	them	

"Qesqa	ghunen	kist'a	yit
"Rich man	that one	a lot	there

yenughedugen	ts'u	nq'et	teles
he keeps going	and	on you	he urinates

ts'u	t'et'an.	Yin	sa	gheli
and	he does that.	He	the first	very

hts'atuyuɬ.	Nts'uk'a qiytghilgheɬ."
he will come out.	You won't let him in."

Tsida Old lady's	kuya granddaughter	ngela she kept digging	
ngela and digging	ts'u and	gesqa rich man's	uts'enaqa children
			yet there
geyaninudeɬ. they came over.	K'eldunna Some of them	geynunetuh. they helped her.	
Q'u Just	q'aqinilu she finished digging	yethdi and then	ndaɬ cranes
			ghin those
yeh there	hts'anindatl'. they flew out.	Hts'anindatl' They flew out	ts'u and
dilghuy they called out	kegh gheli. really	Qek'di'un. The sun came out.	
Qesqa Rich man	ghunhdi that one	qughiyu came out	ts'u and
			tal mat
uts'en outside	t'ugh on the ground	nidalkits. he put it.	
"Di si sqesqa "That's my boss	si'i. really.	Si sq'ets' Over me	
ninunedeli they are flying	si'i. really.	Si sghuda sughu Because of me	
t'an t'i," this is happening,"	yeɬni. he said.	Talq'e On mat	gedeltan. he was lying.
Ndaɬ Cranes	yeh there	hts'anindatl' they flew out	ghuda sughu the reason
nts'uk'a he didn't know.	qit'aniven.		

Uts'en	dalts'ey		kegh gheli.
Outside	the wind	started to blow	really big.

K'itigi	edli	ts'u	gesqa	yugh
Really	it was cold	and	rich man	inside

dunu'iltlet.	Nts'uk'a hditseł	ts'u	nilyuts
he ran back in.	It didn't stop	and	it started
			to snow

ts'u	luq'u	gheli	stults'ihdiniltuk'.
and	everything	really	was whisked away in the wind.

K't'un	luq'u	nuntnalten.	K'eldunna
Leaves	all	froze.	Some of the people

qubanidlihadinen.	Qesqa	ghun	sa gheli
were killed by cold.	Rich man	that	the very first

tsidlidałyuggen.	Tsida	kuya
one to freeze to	Old lady's	granddaughter
death.		

gunhdi	naghelt'ana	lyes.	Qeyeghilakna
this one	lots of people	she saved.	The ones she let in

ghuna	luq'u	gesdzes.	Ki k'eldunna	luq'u
those	all	survived.	The others	all

qubenidlihadinen.	Q'ak'nits'ey	hnu'u
they froze to death.	The wind stopped	when

luq'u	qunuqutdatl'.	Hnghalten	ts'u
all	came back up.	It was frozen	and

luq'u	tsidliqubeghil'ik.	Yet h'aq'a
all	had frozen to death.	After that

htset ts'at t'qighit'a	yaqets'	nuqidzuq.
as before	it was	thus
		it became again.

Qubeł nuhnilqin.
For them it warmed back up.

Gin	tsukdu	Dasq'e	yeh si
This	story	Kroto Creek	there

his.'adaltset de'. Yagets' ghuda sughu
it comes from. That's the reason

"ndał gguya ghenhdatl' de'
baby crane you come upon if

i'ilkidi lagi"	na'eł	hdghinih.	Dats'
you don't take it	to us	they used	Thus
		to tell.	

sunkda	seł	nuqulnis.
my mother	me	she used to tell.

Gheldzay Tsukdu

Kil
Young man

gun.
this

k'niyudun ghun.
was engaged in bride service
(was living with wife's family).

Oelunna
Ten people

qilan.
there were.

Qubuda
Their older sister

yegh
to

niniyu.
he went.

Dghelayteh
In the mountains

taynu.
he went.

Taynu
He went

hnu'u
when

tsinah,
he was sick,

tsinah,
he was sick,

tsinah.
he was sick.

Ki nts'uk'a qeyeghudilt'e.
He was of no use to them.

El'egi ghuda.
He was becoming a shaman.

K'unde
Famine

gheli
severe

nihnidaq
struck them

K'ehyulgadi
their provisions

gilal.
were gone.

Detlen'ina
His brothers-in-law

"Dghelay
"Mountain

yats'en
on other side

ghenuy
caribou

dalts'i,"
are staying,"

helni.
they said.

"Yeh
"There

tihdel
you go

ts'u
and

ghenuy
caribou

banihtida'ises,"
kill them off,"

gelni.
he told them.

"K'egget' tuq'eh
"The knee fat

ts'u
and

k'naq'eh yi sennu'ilya de'," heł dghini.
eye fat bring back down," he told them.

Lu łtan tsinah di. Yeh
Then he lay down he was sick as. There

taydatl' ts'u luq'u ghenuy qeyanihdinñen.
they went and all the caribou they killed off.

K'tisnesa yiq'e qeyedela nuk'dghighun.
Caribou's stomach in they saved the blood.

Nutiha qeyenuqidalyu. Nuqeyedalyu
Two (stomachs) they brought back. They brought them
back

ts'u "Gini di bihunik'dinlu," qeyelni.
and "This is what you ordered," they told him.

Del qits' qidghiltuk'.
Blood (bags) they threw down.

"Yagheli," ni. Yeghetneq.
"Good," he said. He took it.

De'unhdi yegh nink'dinlu, "K'eyes
His wife he advised "A skin

begges qiseni ghin k'elq'a yeh
clean one that site of the killing there

qubeł tghiyul. K'egheskena ighilkit de',
with them you will go. A hindquarter take,

nughidgha de'. K'egheskena ntsi
you pack it back. The hindquarter your head

ghu tghiltıl. Uts'ak'iq'esi
by you'll hide it. Cutting off pieces

yeyqaq'utghiduł. Luq'u gheli gubanihtidulyes.
 you will live off it. Ali completely they will die off.

Nayina. K'tsen beqistlak hnu'u
 Our people. Meat it is gone when

ditusi u'itdghiltas ts'u
 down feathers you'll sprinkle (on the hind- and
 quarter)

sukan utsen k'ilanh nututnił.
 in the morning meat is it will become again.

Tuhtdulggih da quht'ana ghe tghiyuł.
 It will be spring when people to you will go.

Itaghidzes. Nen ki itaghidzes."
 You'll be safe. You too you'll be safe."

Yaghelist'a yegh nink'dalyu ts'u.
 Further he advised her.

"Q'isq'a sdundinlyu," yelni.
 "Banjo snowshoes bring to me," he told her.

O'isq'a duniyedalyu.
 Banjo snowshoes she brought in.

"Beqasdghinıdał." Yeqaydghııdatl'.
 "Put them on my feet." She put them on his feet.

"Gheldzay i'un da del ntsi
 "Moon is full when blood your head

k'itgheıtl'eł. Q'udi kilqa tinudelgges.
 I will sprinkle. Now men menstruate.

Yaqets' t'ehtust'il. Dek'isna
 Thus they will no Women
 longer do.

tinutdulgges. Gheldzay qughi'un da
 will menstruate. Moon is up when

tnghil'an de'. Si sit'i si yi
look inside it. It is me I inside

yetghelgges," yelni lu.
will be walking he told her.
around,"

Q'isq'a yeqaydghildatl' ts'u
Banjo snowshoes she put on him and

dzelq'e hnehqidun kil yutggeh
smokehole there was a hole young man up

yeh neh'ilgguk. Yutgge gheli qa'ilgguk.
there he ascended. Up way he went.

Uqilal.
He was gone.

Yeh q'u ghini luq'u nihnat'ets'.
There (they were) all crowded together.

K'tsen ghini luq'u dunhyilyu.
Meat that all they brought in.

Qeyeqadalts'i. Ki gheli nts'uk'a
They were living on it. More no

tsinuk'qil'ik. Dihdi k'egheskena ltun.
did they kill. That hindquarter was concealed.

Yeyqaq'uydu. Nts'uk'a qeyeqit'a.
She lived off it. They (the others) didn't know.

K'egheskena ltun ts'u gheldzay
The hindquarter was concealed and moon

t'ilkegh. Ghin hyahtnił'ani el yeyiq'e
it grew. That one she looked at it when inside on it

kil gheyul. Q'isq'a qadalyuh
young man was walking. Banjo snowshoes wearing

gheyul. Del yedulaɿ.
he walked. Blood he was carrying.

Luq'u gheli qubaynihdalnen. Ki
All of them died off. More

nts'uk'a tsinuk'qil'ik ts'u k'unde
they didn't kill and famine

qubanihdalnen. K'isen yin ki
killed them off. Young woman she again

daha tayu ts'u yeh
somewhere she walked and there

quht'ana ghe niyu ts'u sdzes.
people to she came and she was saved.

Nts'uk'a tsi'inil. Dats' gheldzay
She wasn't killed. Thus moon

tsukdu sei nuhqulnek.
story me they told.

CRANE STORY

They were staying in their fish camp. There was an old lady staying nearby, living in poverty. Her granddaughter lived with her. One day a rich man's daughter said, "Let's go to the flats." Everyone went to the flats to pick berries. They found a crane nest with the baby crane sitting in it. The rich man's daughter begged for it and they took it. They brought it back to the camp with them.

All day the rich man's daughter played with the baby crane, throwing it up in the air. The rich man's children threw it up. It got wet and it was about to die.

That old lady said, "Granddaughter, take that worn-out rabbit skin. When they throw that crane up, grab the crane and throw up the rabbit skin. Grab the crane and bring it back here."

The grandmother tore out the crane's head feathers. She scattered the feathers around the fire. The rich man's children looked for it outside. They ran inside to the old lady. "I ate it up," she told them. That's what it seemed like. She hid the baby crane.

The old lady's granddaughter ran back with it to the place they had taken it from. Her grandmother warned her, "Hide downwind from that place and stay there."

Just at dark the cranes flew back there. When they returned their baby was sitting there. It was soaking wet. "How did you get back?" they said.

"The old lady's granddaughter brought me here," it said. "She threw a rabbit skin up and grabbed me."

"Where is she?"

"She's hiding over there. Come," it told them, and went over to her.

They took out a skin bag. They gave her all kinds of things -- feathers, blankets, and clothes.

"When you return, tell your grandmother to let you dig a hole. Make it large. Dig it really big and put your grandmother in it. The rich man's children will bother you. They'll throw dirt in the hole and do this to you. Some of them will be sorry for you and help you. When it gets really bad, let those ones into the hole. They will pay, with whatever they have. You will take only the dentalium and you'll become their boss.

"When the wind starts to blow, make a stick for the ones who bothered you. You'll drive them away. You won't let them in. All of them will freeze to death.

"The rich man will keep going there and he urinates on you and does bad things to you. He'll come out first of all. You won't let him in."

The old lady's granddaughter kept digging and digging and the rich man's children came over there. Some of them helped her. Just as she finished digging, the cranes flew over. They flew out and called loudly. The sun came out.

The rich man came out and laid a mat outside on the ground. "That's my boss. They're really flying over me. This good stuff is happening on account of me," he said. He was lying on the mat. The cranes flew over, but he didn't know the real reason!

Outside the wind started to blow really hard. It was really cold and the rich man ran back inside. It didn't stop: it started to snow and everything was blown away in the wind. All the leaves froze. Some of the people were killed by the cold. The rich man was the very first to freeze to death. That old lady's granddaughter saved lots of people. All the ones she let into the shelter survived. All the others froze to death. When the wind stopped they all came back up. Everything was frozen and all the people had frozen to death. After that it became as it had been before. It warmed back up.

This story comes from Kroto Creek. That's the reason they used to tell us, "If you come upon a baby crane, don't take it." That's what my mother used to tell me.

MOON STORY

A young man was living with his wife's family, engaged in bride service. There were ten of them. He was married to their older sister. He went into the mountains. When he went, he was terribly sick, very sick. He was of no use to them. He was becoming a shaman. A severe famine struck them and their provisions ran out.

His brothers-in-law said, "There are caribou on the other side of the mountain."

He told them, "Go there and kill them off. Bring back the knee fat and the eye fat." Then he lay down, for he was sick. They went there and killed off the caribou. They saved the blood in caribou stomachs. They brought back two stomachs. They brought them back and said to him, "Here's what you ordered." They threw down the bags of blood.

"Good," he said. He took it.

He advised his wife, "Take a clean skin and go back with them to the place where they killed the caribou. Take a hindquarter and pack it back. Hide the hindquarter under your pillow. Cut off pieces and live on it. They will all die off, our people. When the meat is gone, sprinkle down feathers on the hindquarter and in the morning there will be meat on it again. When spring comes, go to the people. You'll be safe then."

He went on, "Bring me banjo snowshoes." She brought in the banjo snowshoes. "Put them on my feet." She put them on his feet. "When the moon is full I will sprinkle blood on

your head. Now the men menstruate. They will do that no longer. The women will menstruate. When the moon is up, look inside it. That will be me, walking around inside the moon," he told her.

She put the banjo snowshoes on him and the young man flew up through the smokehole. Far up he went. He disappeared.

They were all crowded together in the house. They brought in all the meat. They lived on it. They killed no more game. The woman kept the hindquarter hidden and lived off it. The others didn't know about it. The hindquarter stayed hidden and the moon grew larger. When the woman looked up at it, she saw the young man walking around on it. He was wearing the banjo snowshoes and carrying the bag of blood.

All the people died off. They killed no more game and famine killed them off. The young woman walked to another place and came to some people, and she was saved. She didn't die. That is the moon story they told to me.